

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

1859 - 1959



A
HISTORY
OF THE
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA
Young Men's Christian Association

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ORIGINS OF THE Y. M. C. A.

The middle years of the Nineteenth Century were in many respects drab and dreary. The Industrial Revolution brought about the rapid growth of towns and cities. Young men and women migrated from rural areas to urban centers to work long hours in newly built factories. Seventy-two hours of work during a six-day week was the usual pattern and the little leisure that existed was spent in crowded and dismal quarters. No organized society or association offered workers constructive opportunities for pleasure or companionship. Mechanics, laborers and mill hands were mere tools in the new era of mass production.

George Williams, an Englishman, had come to London in 1840, having finished an apprenticeship as a draper. There he joined a Drapers' staff where he was associated with a large company, working a hundred hours a week for 15 shillings. A country boy, devoted to the Christian teachings he had learned, Williams was surrounded by the discouraging conditions of city life and employment. But a real spirit of goodness burned within him and he soon found kindred associates. On June 6, 1844, with eleven other young men, an organization called the Young Men's Christian Association was formed. George Williams, their founder, was the natural leader of this apostolic group which concerned themselves with the "spiritual condition of young men" and the development of their "mental culture." The outgrowth was the establishment of reading rooms, courses of instruction and religious services. The enthusiasm of the twenty-three year old Williams bore fruit. Aided by the vitality of his associates, sixteen cities in the British Isles had formed branches of the Association by 1851. The materialism of the age was thus mitigated by the unvanquished spiritual forces deep within mankind.

In the same year (1851), a Boston correspondent wrote from England of these Associations and within the same year a Boston Y.M.C.A. was founded, followed soon by similar branches in major American cities.

CARLISLE BEGINNINGS

The decade of the 1850's saw a remarkable growth in the town of Carlisle. The population had increased from 4,561 in 1850 to 5,417 in 1860. With 783 dwellings at the beginning of the decade the town was divided into two wards —the East Ward and the West Ward about equal in number of inhabitants.

The town itself did not extend far beyond the original limits of North, East, South and West Streets. The main roads leading into the country had a few isolated dwellings along the route, often set in orchards, but that was all. Yet in 1859 Carlisle was more a "country town" than it is now. It was the focal point for all trade, and merchants prospered particularly. Rapid transportation since has widened our compass, and Carlisle too was limited in many aspects. That year only a dozen students graduated from the high school—nine girls and three boys. After the commencement ceremonies, James Hamilton, as was his yearly custom, took the graduates to a local ice cream parlor for an annual "treat". Pleasures thus were simple. The town, for all its law abiding and at time distinguished citizenry, was plagued by rowdies. The soldiers at the Barracks contributed their share to the frequent brawls, but local ruffians were many. In 1857 and again in 1859 "fire bugs" were hunted in vain. Surprise "attacks" were many and alarms frequent. Politically, every election was a close battle between Democrats and Republicans, and in the following year Lincoln won a plurality only because of a Democratic split.

This was the Carlisle in which a Y.M.C.A. was first established. The **Volunteer**, one of two local weekly newspapers, reported that on Monday (March 14, 1859) a meeting was held at Marian Hall "for the purpose of forming a Young Men's Christian Association, in the borough of Carlisle". Henry Saxton, a young hardware merchant, was elected Chairman and H. A. Sturgeon, cashier of the Cumberland Valley Bank, named Secretary. A committee having been appointed to draft a constitution, the next meeting was set for the following Monday at seven o'clock.

The Carlisle Y.M.C.A. dates from this gathering of March 21, 1859, when twenty men met to adopt a constitution for their new organization. Joseph C. Hofer was elected president. The impulse to establish the Y.M.C.A. primarily was that of a group of young Christians seeking a wider association than their churches could give them and, more, to contribute to Carlisle by providing additional benefits to the community.

The local organization followed the pattern created in England and in other American towns and cities. Noting that "a want of a reading room and public library has long been felt and acknowledged in our community", a room was rented in Marian Hall for this purpose beginning September 19. Activity had been limited before this to occasional meetings, and, in the summer, the sponsoring of a sermon given by the Rev. Dr. Conway Wing. The Reading Room now gave a center to activity and more certainty to success. More than 400 books were collected from members and friends and six daily newspapers and fifty periodicals were provided. A janitor—hired to keep the room in order—counted 1944 visitors from the opening until March 21st. Here, according to the First Annual Report, came those who sought "restraining and edifying influences". The third initial activity of the Association following the Religious Meetings and the Reading Room was a lecture series begun in November. Five of these were held during the first year. Deemed "instructive entertainment", the majority of the lectures were given by ministers such as that of the Rev. Mr. Marles of Pittsburgh, who talked on "Scenes in Northern Palestine". (Tickets were 15 cents apiece and available at the stores of Messrs. Saxton, Halbert, Loudon or Steel.) The last, by a Prof. Thomas C. Porter of Lancaster, was entitled "Dominion of Man Over the Animal Creation." Beginning in the late autumn, weekly Prayer Meetings were held on Monday evenings, but in mid-winter the time changed to Sunday afternoons.

On March 22, 1860, the first anniversary service was held at the First Presbyterian Church. President Hofer read his Report and local clergymen gave tribute to the organization which had increased to sixty members, 46 active and 14 associates. The Rev. Joseph Murray saw evidence that in this union of men from different churches there was a "break down of the sectarian spirit," while the Rev. Jacob Fry referred to the Association as "the executive committee of the whole Christian community".

The second year, 1860, was a difficult one for the nation, for the community and, in turn, for the young Y.M.C.A. In November came the heated election campaign with the victory of Lincoln and the dissolution of the Union. By February, 1861, seven states had seceded. The voters had taken their stand knowing the inevitable results. Carlisle, whose relationship with the South were in part geographic, had other ties with the Post and the College both of which had large numbers of Southerners. Not only were tempers aroused by the campaign but nerves unsettled by the defection of the Southern States.

The young organization continued in fair shape in the months immediately following their first anniversary. In June a "Strawberry and Floral Festival" was held beginning on Wednesday and continuing each evening through Saturday. "Good order and uninterrupted good feeling marked its progress" according to the local press and one night the 8th Regiment Band added its festive notes. Though the net proceeds amounted to only a dollar and a half, the "lady managers" were praised and the event was considered a big success. But the fall and winter months proved to be difficult. The currents of the time ran against the dedicated enthusiasts, hence the discouraging meeting of March 26, 1861, to consider the future of the organization. Those who attended expressed a variety of opinions. Perhaps one Mr. Marshall spoke most perceptively when he declared that "the interest in the Association has been taken away by the distracted conditions of the country". But there were other realists who declared that there were so few young men taking an active part that it (the Y.M.C.A.) "ought to be disbanded or the name changed to the Carlisle or Old Men's Association". What was the organization's goal, some inquired—the Reading Room? The Prayer Meetings and Missionary Activities certainly got little support even from members now attending in such diminished numbers. An adjourned meeting held the following week sounded the death knell for the first Y.M.C.A. in Carlisle—an action taken with regret but with recognition of the sad fact of disinterest.

A SECOND FOUNDING

Carlisle has always had a consecrated group of earnest church workers. In the last century services at the local churches were more frequent than today and "youth activity" often took the form of special prayer meetings. The seeds planted by the early organization of the Y.M.C.A. had not fully matured but the planting was well remembered. The question of its re establishment was brought up soon after the cessation of the Civil War. In 1867 it was actively discussed at an Easter Monday Young Men's Community Religious Service. Finally at a "Young Men's Prayer Meeting" in July those present invited leading church members to meet for the purpose of considering a second try. On August 5, 1867, a meeting to this end was held and the Y.M.C.A. was revived as a formal Association with Jacob C. Stock elected president.

For the next five years the once more newly organized Association followed the path of the pre-war one. In actuality the pattern was that of most all the 200 Y.M.C.A.'s which spanned the globe in these years. Readings Rooms—this time with a circulating library and a magazine and newspaper file—were immediately opened. For the first year these were located in the Kramer Building (S-W corner of the Square on High Street) and in 1869 moved to what was known as the Halbert Corner (S E corner of Hanover and Louther Sts.) Religious activities consisted of daily morning prayer services, "Cottage" prayer meetings and monthly sermons. In 1871 "Summer Sabbath Outdoor Services" were instituted. These were novelties and each Sunday afternoon took place in a different section of the town. They became a fixed part of the Y.M.C.A. program. The Rev. Mr. Long of the Bethel Church was pastor in charge for this first organized series which lasted until October 29. At times the congregation numbered 400.

In the spring of 1870 the Association temporarily vacated the Reading Rooms and held business meetings in the homes of members. Religious activities were continued. Under the presidency of J. C. Stock (1871-1873)

the Y.M.C.A. gained momentum. Sunday afternoon services were held at the jail and at the County Almhouse. A Tract distributor was also appointed.

In 1872 the local organization was aided, in spirit, by the state convention of the Y.M.C.A. which met in Carlisle from September tenth to twelfth. The opening rally was held on the lawn of the First Presbyterian Church, attended by 150 delegates and their wives, and by many more townspeople. Regular sessions were held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the Business Meeting John Wanamaker of Philadelphia was elected President while John T. Green of Carlisle was elected one of three Vice-Presidents and Andrew Blair as Secretary.

What did the delegates think of Carlisle and how did the town appear to the visitors? Only a month before the convention a widely publicized murder trial (Schoeppe) took place at the Court House. The **Philadelphia Evening Bulletin** dispatched two reporters who filed stories and on the week end sent in a description of Carlisle, later republished by the Herald. They wrote:

"The town (of Carlisle) which has about 7000 inhabitants, has a curious half wide-awake air about it. There are many handsome buildings which look modern, and indicate an enterprising spirit, but interspersed with those are many others which look as if the flood might have drifted them into their present situations. It is a handsome place. Its level streets are well shaded by trees; there are some fine churches and private residences; Dickinson College has some beautiful grounds about it, and the fields which stretch away on every side are green and smiling . . . Along the principal street of Carlisle runs the Cumberland Valley Railroad, the rails sunk to a level with the drive, and presenting so completely the appearance of a Philadelphia street railway, that one finds himself unconsciously looking out for a horse car . . . It is not probable that a railroad accident happens once a year in these little travelled streets. It is a grand place for a quiet man to live in . . . The air is pure, fresh, country air, the water excellent, and fruits and vegetables abundant. The railroad facilities consist of two trains daily, each way, between Harrisburg and Hagerstown . . . Among the disadvantages of the place may be mentioned a habit of extinguishing the street lamps at 10 o'clock, on the darkest nights, and an observance of the Sabbath that is almost Puritanic in its strictness. Even the drug stores close on Sunday, and a special Sunday train, the other day created, according to a local paper, "great excitement" . . .

Certainly the September meeting gave rise to future enthusiasms in Carlisle. What was known as the Dickinson Mission Chapel (at the corner of North and East Streets) was put up for Sheriff's Sale. In January, 1873 members of the Association purchased the property for \$900, which they cleared of debt in sixty days. J. C. Stock, the President, became Sunday School Superintendent and in the first seven months had a total of 92 pupils on the roll with an average attendance of 72, and 15 teachers. Receipts for the year 1873 were \$1008.83 with most expenditures going for the Mission Chapel. Income came from special gifts for the purchase (sic) and from

lectures and concerts. Membership was forty—less than half this number being active members. This was, indeed, a case of a small and valiant band dedicated to the work they were doing. The Mission Chapel continued until 1880 when the property was sold to Andrew Blair (of the Second Presbyterian Church and subsequently became Biddle Mission) for \$500. Once again rooms for members of the Y.M.C.A. were rented and furnished, this time in the Patton Building then at the N-W corner of High and Pitt Streets. In April, 1881 the Association moved to the Given Building, in Church Avenue, back of the First Presbyterian Church. Y.M.C.A.'s in other communities were growing and the local organization looked forward to its own increased activity and responsibilities. On December 5, 1881, Allan Line, then President, appointed Charles E. Eckels, Harry Wetzel, Levi Brenneman and Reuben Brubaker, all members of the Executive Committee, with W. Scott Coyle, Treasurer and Mervin McMillan, Recording Secretary, to sign a Charter of Incorporation in the Court of Common Pleas for a "Young Men's Christian Association of Carlisle, Pennsylvania", thus formalizing the already long established organization.

The purely religious character of Y.M.C.A. work had to be supplemented if the Association was to grow. In the fall of 1882 it was decided to establish "Boys Work". The local group, with the aid of W. A. Bowen, Assistant State Secretary, campaigned to raise \$1000 to meet current expenses for the next year, which were to include the employing of a general secretary (at \$50 a month) who was to direct the Reading Room, enlarge the work of the Association and have oversight of activities. This was successfully carried out and a new era thus begun.

PROFESSIONALIZING THE Y.M.C.A.

With the arrival of "Professor" J. A. McKnight, from Harrisburg, as General Secretary on January 25, 1883, a professional touch came to the organization. Successful efforts had been made in the previous year to attract boys of the town and enlarge their interests by various lectures. These were referred to as "instructive entertainment". The *Sentinel* of January 28 reported:

"There was a very good attendance at the boys' meeting last evening in the Y.M.C.A. rooms, 105 boys being present. Our fellow townsman, A. D. B. Smead, Esq., gave a very interesting account of what he saw in Holland during his recent visit to Europe. All were pleased, and hope to hear from the gentleman again."

The success of these Friday night lectures led to the issuing of tickets and soon only those having them could be admitted, space being at a premium. The newspaper the week following Mr. McKnight's arrival announced that the "new General Secretary is kept busily engaged looking up Association work . . .". Within a month Educational classes for young men were begun — a "class in elocution, embracing vocal culture, gymnastics, gestures, etc.". And it paid to be a member of the Y.M.C.A. — members could attend classes free, all others had to pay three dollars for the course of 15 lessons. Nor was this Secretary McKnight's only innovation. A Ladies Auxiliary was organized and a Boys' Branch established. In March the following attendance report for the month was submitted to the Board:

4 Young Men's Meetings	83
1 Business Meeting	21
4 Boys' Meetings	449
1 Special Meeting for Boys	30
3 Elocution Classes	58
1 Bible and Training Class	5
1 Executive Committee	5
1 Ladies Advisory	3
Attendance at Rooms	300

The Y.M.C.A. opened its rooms from 4:15 to 5:15 each Sunday and advertised them as "a pleasant place to spend the time". (It is interesting that thirty years later the Directors under a new set-up were inquiring if Sunday hours were usual elsewhere. The Sunday openings had been dropped and forgotten by the Carlisle organization in the intervening years.) All the increased activity inevitably led to a need for more space and in August, 1883 the Association once again moved to Marian Hall, this time taking over much of the building. Reading Rooms were located in the parlors of the first floor, while the second floor contained a large Meeting Hall and rooms in the front for other meeting purposes. The large yard to the rear and a barn-like building on the alley were also available for expansion needs. A new peak was reached by the Carlisle Y.M.C.A. Secretary McKnight was a dynamo when it came to engendering enthusiasm but the inevitable happened: In the fall of 1884 he was called to Allentown. He was followed by a rapid succession of General Secretaries, many of them students at Dickinson College. Included in their number were J. Fred Mohler and J. Roy Strock. In 1886 members totaled 165 members—active, sustaining and associate. The Association, finding it did not need all its rooms in Marian Hall, moved to the second floor where it concentrated its activities.

A small printing press presented to the Association resulted in the printing of a semi-monthly one-fold newspaper entitled **Our Young Men**.

C. R. Johns, the General Secretary, was Editor and Montgomery Sellers, the Business Manager. From this we learn that "any young man who is a member of any Evangelical Church may become an **Active Member**", any young man of good moral character an **Associate Member**, and any man "having five dollars a year may become a sustaining member". The Association was open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. and there were, at that time, three regular weekly Association meetings: a Young Men's Meeting, Sunday at 4:00 P.M.; a Bible Class, Thursday evening at 7:30; and a German Class Thursdays at 8:30. But the most interesting news was the plan for a general canvass for funds in February looking forward to the purchase of a building.

About 1889 Charles F. Fought, a Carlisle, who had been an employee of the local Car Shops, was hired to take charge of the rooms. His interest in the work increased the general activity about the Association and as a result he was elected General Secretary, remaining in that post for twelve years at which time he moved to New Kensington to do Y work there. Semi-monthly Boys' Meetings were held, Religious Education was given renewed emphasis and, most significant, the so-called Neff Building across the street from Marian Hall, was purchased for \$10,500 in 1891. This became the site of the first permanent Y.M.C.A. building.

Strong and active General Secretaries were often followed by interim directors. Charles D. Martz of Mt. Carmel came to the Carlisle Association in December, 1901. Fresh vision through Mr. Martz's eyes led to plans for a new building, much discussed and hoped for.

FIRMLY PLANTED — A NEW BUILDING

In June, 1906, the Directors of the Carlisle Y.M.C.A. initiated a campaign for a new and efficient structure to be built on the site of their present building which had proven inadequate for expanded activities. Headquarters were opened in a South Hanover Street store room and a goal set for \$35,000. The drive was well organized. Even the headquarters telephone number was 35000. Effort was concentrated to twelve days. "You Can't Raise \$35,000 in Carlisle in twelve days," mocked one doubter. But the men had faith in their project.

The Carlisle Civic Club on its part invited Dr. George F. Tibbets of Washington to address local citizens in the old Armory (now Stock Hall) on the Y.M.C.A. needs and issued invitations to the event. This was Friday night and acted as a "Kick-off" rally. On Sunday, State Y.M.C.A. workers addressed Church organizations in the morning while in the afternoon a gigantic mass meeting was held in the Opera House with 1200 people present. Mr. Coyle promised a \$5000 gift if the balance were met by July 1st. It was further announced that \$11,000 had been pledged up to the meeting time. Two committees of seventy-five men each, with Major J. E. Pilcher and John M. Rhey as captains, went out to raise the remainder. A thousand subscribers in the allotted time of the campaign made up the differential and assured the rise of the new Y.M.C.A.

The handsome building, designed by M. I. Kast, architect, of Harrisburg, was begun in 1908 and finished a year later. Seventy-five towns and cities had already built their own headquarters and that constructed in Carlisle was a worthy match. Originally the entrance was in the center, the door opening to a wide flight of stairs leading to the second floor.

Two store rooms, to be rented, flanked either side. At the top of the steps was a spacious lobby and desk. In the front were communicating reading rooms, one with a panelled fireplace. To the back were entrances to two rooms—the east one a Men's Game Room from which one had access to the spectators' gallery of the Gymnasium; the other entrance was to a Boys' Game and Reading Room. From the lobby a staircase mounted to the third floor. Here there was a large lecture room seating 250 and on one side of which there was an enclosed kitchen. The front part of the third floor had five dormitory rooms while twelve were located on a fourth floor. The prize feature, of course, was the Gymnasium with a hundred lockers and the shower rooms. In the basement were bowling alleys and space reserved for a swimming pool. The contract was let to James Porter for \$39,125 but with unforeseen extras the completed cost came to \$42,397.62. Furnishings added more and, with the heating plant, totaled \$7,067.58.

The gala opening and celebration in February, 1909, brought extra gifts: Congressman Olmsted, the main speaker for the occasion, contributed \$500, the Ladies Auxiliary eyeing the new kitchen pledged \$300 to furnish the library, and A. Grant Richwine of Mechanicsburg gave a gift of \$125. The furnishings of rooms were undertaken by groups and individuals, among them the First Presbyterian Sunday School, George E. Reed, Jr., the Presi-

dent of the College, and H. H. Mentzer. Nevertheless, coupon bonds secured by a mortgage were issued to the amount of \$12,000.

A sound building needed a good program. Mr. Martz, the General Secretary, had need now of a Physical Director and Ira A. Horn was the first appointed, ready to take over the job when the building was completed. One year after the opening (1910) there was a membership of 441 men and boys in the different categories. This was the greatest number reached until the post-war period. In 1911 the membership had been cut more than in two. But even so, 150 men and boys used the building daily. Finances continued to be the greatest handicap. In that year liabilities were \$17,000. Yet never did the Association slacken in its services to the boys and men in the community.

In the subsequent history of the Carlisle Y.M.C.A. the steady growth and innovations in the course of years are of particular interest.

In May, 1911 gymnastic exhibitions were introduced. These became annual events though later given the name of circus. That summer "outdoor work" was begun, using Biddle Field and the Kindergarten Playground established the same year by the Civic Club. A "camp" was also offered. Furnishings and equipment had to be added or renewed. In 1912 a Tag Day was held to raise money to purchase these needs. Some members asked for Pool Tables. In 1913 the Board directed the Secretary to write other Y's to "find the cost of same and their effect, morally, on the community." Whatever the report, it was not until 1919 that a Billiard Table was bought and then restricted "for men only." Seemingly begun earlier, a two weeks Camp for Boys was re-introduced in 1913 and held at Laurel Lake with 19 boys attending. Once again there was an intermission in this program. A camp site and buildings were discussed in August, 1922, but no action was taken. Finally in 1926 the Board leased land near Laurel Lake and built four cabins. The next year the camp was named for D. R. Thompson who had served loyally as Board Member for nearly fifty years and as President on two occasions. A Mess Hall was constructed in 1928 and in 1955 Roger K. Todd, a former President, presented an aluminum roofed pavillion.

Other activities were added. The Assistant Physical Director coached a Track Team at the High School beginning in 1914. An Industrial Basketball League was organized in the winter of 1913-14 with the following factories taking part: Bedford Shoe Co., Lindner Shoe Co., Frog, Switch and Manufacturing Co., and also the Carlisle Carpet Mills and the Carlisle Shoe Co., forming together one team. T. Howard Upland was chairman of the Board of Managers. In March the League held a Men's Banquet, addressed by the Honorable Vance McCormick, with a suggestive menu bearing out an "Industrial" theme: Bedford Salad, Lindner Halves, Pickelweight Specials, Beetem Chick, Bosler Spuds, Frog Berries, Hays, Sibbet Sass, Goodyear Cake, Irving Brew, Green Wood and Bushman Cow. That summer four factories also formed a Baseball League under Y.M.C.A. auspices, playing on Tuesday and Friday nights on Biddle Field. The concern with factory personnel had been shown earlier when in 1885 86 special programs were given "for clerks and mechanics", doubtless due to interest on the part of Charles Fought who had himself worked in the Car Shops.

The community service element of the Y was stressed once more beginning in 1915 when the High School was given use of the Gymnasium (the only one in Carlisle) in order to play out of town teams. Indeed the Gym alone almost made the Y.M.C.A. program worthwhile. In 1918 there were

special hours and days for Juniors, High School Boys, Employed Boys, Seniors and Business Men.

Boy Scout Work was first undertaken by the Association when it merged its Boys' Work Committee into a Boy Scout Council and sponsored Carlisle's first troop.

War came. The Y.M.C.A. gave Pocket Testaments to each departing soldier. Company G assembled in Carlisle and the Y.M.C.A. offered its headquarters as a social center. Finally with the opening of Carlisle Barracks as a Convalescent Hospital, one of the unoccupied store rooms on the street level was set aside as a "Y.M.C.A. Hut" and jointly sponsored by the National Y.M.C.A., the National War Council and the Churches of Carlisle.

Close relationship with the schools was now recognized as a part of the Boys' Work Division. In 1922 the Hi-Y Club was approved and introduced in the high school. Later a Junior Hi-Y and Gra-Y were established. Safety Patrols were organized in 1926. A "Learn to Swim" Drive, utilizing the College Pool, was initiated in 1932. The activities continued by the Y.M.C.A. are myriad. Projects begun by the Association, firmly established and formed into independent organizations, are equally numerous and impressive.

In World War II the functions that the Y.M.C.A. had performed in World War I were taken over, by and large, by the United Service Organization (USO). The Y.M.C.A. contributed by supplying many members of the staff of the USO and assisted in its functioning. In the main, the Y.M.C.A. provided a local Christian atmosphere for servicemen away from home and, of course, continued its activities with the youth and men of the community.

During World War II, the Y.M.C.A. of Carlisle organized the Y's Men Club, an international service club of the Y. Officially organized on December 7, 1943, the club currently has a membership of 18. It has made a great contribution to the Y through the raising of monies for special projects.

In 1954, as part of an expansion program, the Carlisle Y.M.C.A. purchased the Houck Building located adjacent to its headquarters. The purchase of this property was designed to protect the Y's interest on High Street and to provide for possible future expansion.

Another great step taken by the local Y during the same year was the formation of an Industrial Management Club. Currently, it is affiliated with the National Council of Industrial Management Clubs and has a membership of 202 men representing 31 industries in and around Carlisle. Its purpose is to bring in advice and counsel of industry leaders of other communities for the education of the membership. The club also encourages the exchange of ideas on industrial management among its own members. Locally, the club is one of the most popular of the Y.M.C.A. sponsored activities.

In the early 1950's, it became evident to the members of the Y's Board of Directors that the Y had outgrown its present structure. In early '55, steps were taken to prepare for a major capital fund campaign, the purpose being to acquire funds in order to erect a new modern structure to house the Y.M.C.A.'s activities. The campaign was conducted in December, 1955, and January, 1956. A capital sum of \$500,000 was subscribed to by the citizens and industries of Carlisle and the surrounding communities. At the time of the drive, William Thompson was President of the Board; Wallace T. Hyde, General Secretary; Joseph Shoenfelt, Physical Director, and J. Robert Sheppard, the Boys' Work Secretary. General campaign chairman was Frank E. Masland, III and the Big Gifts Committee Chairman, Urie Lutz. A

total of 410 citizens of Carlisle banded together to raise these monies. Because of the wonderful cooperation and the dedication of all workers, the drive was an outstanding success.

Since the conclusion of the drive, the Y.M.C.A. has been busy making plans for the new building and already has purchased the Franklin School Building and land from the Carlisle Area School District. The Y took title to the property in March, 1958. Pledges, in the main have been received. It is the intense hope of the Y.M.C.A. that before 1959 is over, the Y's Centennial Year, the construction of the great new Y will be well underway.

The one hundred year old Y.M.C.A. has advanced far from its halting, yet visionary beginning. The record is impressive, one of an expanding Association dedicated to boys, youth and men, young in years primarily. Becoming men, many one-time Y.M.C.A. boys have become active leaders, contributing to the community itself. Often the sound Christian character and principles fostered by the Y.M.C.A. are apparent in their work.

The Y's first 100 years give ample evidence of ever expansive thought and planning, of needs recognized and quickly provided to its membership and friends in the community of Carlisle.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

"The Young Men's Christian Association is a world-wide fellowship united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of developing a Christian personality and building a Christian Society."

The Y.M.C.A. sincerely desires to serve the citizenry of Carlisle and the surrounding area for another 100 years. It firmly believes that a non-sectarian Christian movement, such as the Y.M.C.A., is an invaluable asset to any community. It believes that agencies such as the Y.M.C.A. make our town and nation a better place in which to live. It believes the Carlisle Y.M.C.A. has stood the test of time and has not been found wanting. It sincerely desires, needs and prays for the continued support of all the people.

Y. M. C. A. Presidents

1859	Joseph C. Hofer	1911-19	David R. Thompson
1867	Jacob C. Stock	1919-22	A. L. Roberts
1868	H. K. Peffer	1922-26	S. D. Clark
1869-70	John T. Green	1927-30	M. W. Allen
1871-73	Jacob C. Stock	1930-31	Urie D. Lutz
1874	John H. Wolf	1932	Walter Burns
1875	Andrew Blair	1933	O. H. Starner
1876-79	Samuel Coyle	1934-37	Rev. Dr. Harry B. Stock
1879-31	Rev. William Halbert	1938-40	Roger K. Todd
1881-82	A. A. Line	1941	W. H. Norcross
1883-84	David R. Thompson	1942	Ray Schaul
1885	J. C. Eckels, Jr.	1943	Ray B. Lackey
1886	Dr. George Neidigh	1947	Dale F. Shughart
	M. N. Wagner	1953-58	Wm. J. Thompson
1907	J. C. Eckels	1959	William F. Martson
1910-11	J. C. Wagner		Current President

GENERAL SECRETARIES

1883-84	J. A. McKnight	1901	Charles D. Martz
1884-85	F. M. Welsh	1909-10	D. M. Howell
1885	J. F. Mohler	1911-12	P. H. Hughes
1885	A. B. Paul	1912-17	R. C. Weber
	-- Flynn	1917	James J. Linn
1888	C. R. Johns	1917-1922	John S. Byrne
	Charles F. Fought	1922-47	Charles W. Sayers
	J. Roy Strock	1947-57	Wallace T. Hyde
	S. W. Ruse	1957	Victor J. Michael

PHYSICAL DIRECTORS AND BOYS WORK SECRETARIES

1909-10	Ira H. Horn	1938-40	Harry M. Brown
1910-11	R. D. Weber	1940-41	Daniel Geiser, Jr.
1913-15	George Heckman	1941-43	Fred W. Jewett
1916-18	George Boudin	1943-46	Robert Neiles
1918—	-- Lewis	1946-47	-- Fultz
1921	W. O. Hulgren	1947-50	William Maurer
1922-23	James J. Donohue	1950-55	Joseph Shoenfelt
1923-34	P. L. Schickel	1955-58	J. Robert Sheppard
1934-37	David Reeser	1956-57	P. Lester Shannon
1937-38	Carus S. Hicks	1959	William F. Pearce

